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Online Premiere / *Opera Frankfurt at Home*

NUR WER DIE SEHNSUCHT KENNT (ONLY HE WHO KNOWS YEARNING)

Tchaikovsky Lieder staged by Christof Loy

Sung in Russian with German surtitles

Director: Christof Loy

Set and Costume Designer: Herbert Murauer

Lighting Designer: Olaf Winter

Choreography: Andreas Heise

Video: Ruth Stofer

Dramaturge: Maximilian Enderle

Soprano: Olesya Golovneva

Mezzo-soprano: Kelsey Lauritano

Tenor: Andrea Carè

Baritone: Vladislav Sulimsky

Baritone: Mikołaj Trąbka

Piano: Mariusz Klubczuk and Nikolai Petersen

String Sextet (pre-recorded): Members of the Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester

It was originally planned that the first ever performance in Frankfurt of Umberto Giordano's melodrama *Fedora*, in **Christof Loy's** 2016 production for the Royal Opera in Stockholm, would take place on January 2021 at Oper Frankfurt. But, like other things, this fell through because of corona safety restrictions. The idea emerged to stage a „corona correct“ evening of romances, piano and chamber music by **Peter I. Tchaikovsky** (1840-1893) in the set for *Fedora*, which takes place in Russia. This has been made possible by the German company **Unitel** and German / French TV culture channel **ARTE**. All broadcasting dates can be found lower down the page. The **Hessischer Rundfunk** (Hessen radio) also plans two broadcasts on hr2-kultur, dates not yet known, but available soon.

Tchaikovsky's Lieder create an intimate evening on stage which introduces us to five people and their inconsistent emotions. Suppressed love is confronted with longed for moments of ecstasy, the sadness over broken relationships leads to withdrawal and loneliness. A dynamic emerges between the figures, in which the individual characters play each other off, fall in love, despise and transform one another – but are constantly thrown back on their own devices. „Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt / Only he who knows yearning“, a setting to music of Goethe's Mignon song, and probably still the best known of Tchaikovsky's Lieder, lends its name to the production.

Tchaikovsky achieved a stylistic diversity unsurpassed by other Russian composers with his more than 100 Lieder, mostly described as „romances“. He preferred texts by poets who avoided subjects that could be easily explained. The resulting gaps, the unsaid and unsayable are what makes Tchaikovsky's music so expressive. His ability to tackle true human emotions head on made his Lieder very popular during his lifetime. While Tchaikovsky's romances are central to Russian repertoire, they have long languished in the shadows of his operas, symphonies and ballets in the west.

The singers in this special event directed by Christof Loy, who has enjoyed many successes in Frankfurt, are nearly all guests, who should have sung also in *Fedora*: the Russian soprano **Olesya Golovneva** has appeared often in Frankfurt since making her House Debut as Dvořák's Rusalka in 2015, a role she recently sang in a New Production at the Teatro Real in Madrid, directed by Christof Loy. The Italian tenor **Andrea Carè**, one of Pavarotti's last students, is appearing here for the first time. He recently sang Pinkerton in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* at the Met in New York. Projects which fell foul of the corona situation included Cavaradossi in Puccini's *Tosca* and Don José in Bizet's *Carmen* at the Staatsoper in Dresden. Russian baritone **Vladislav Sulimsky** is also singing in Frankfurt for the first time. His roles at the Mariinski in St. Petersburg, his home house, have included Eugene Onegin. He is scheduled to sing another Tchaikovsky title role. Mazeppa, at this year's Easter Festival in Baden-Baden under Kirill Petrenko. Two Members of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble round off the cast: **Kelsey Lauritano** (mezzo-soprano) and **Mikołaj Trąbka** (baritone). They are accompanied by soloists' coach **Mariusz Klubczuk** and Kapellmeister **Nikolai Petersen** on the piano, and a pre-recorded string sextet performed by **Members of the Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester**.

Online Premiere: Friday March 26th 2021, at 19.30hrs on our website (www.oper-frankfurt.de)
for the duration of three months

The production can also be seen from Monday March 22nd 2021 for three months on ARTE Concert (www.arte.tv/de/arte-concert/klassik/).

We hope you might be able to publish these dates. For further information, ordering photographs and reserving press tickets please contact Holger Engelhardt (Leitung Pressereferat) on +49(0)69 - 212 46 727. His fax number is: +49(0)69 - 212 37 164, or you can email him: holger.engelhardt@buehnen-frankfurt.de.